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into the customs of the state; second, that in which a uniform system for both patricians and plebeians was evolved; third, the unification of Rome with Italy, and last, continuing to the time of Gaius himself, that of imperial unification. The text used is that of Krueger and Studemund; and some conjectural readings are added in the appendix.

The text of Gaius and Mr. Poste's translation are set out in parallel columns, and the commentary is interpolated at the natural divisions of the subject-matter. The translation is done in clear, terse English, and the force of the Latin seems not to have been lost. The commentary, too, shows at the same time the learning of the author and his proficiency in the use of his mother tongue, for it is clear, readable, and interesting. A chronological table of events important in the development of Roman law is prefixed to the translation and commentary, and an excellent index to both text and commentary is supplied at the end.

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#### THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

By John A. Fairlie. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. pp. xi, 274. 16mo.

In his preface to this volume the author expresses his surprise that "no comprehensive and systematic work on American national administration" has as yet been published, since, in his opinion, the problems of administration, as distinguished from the problems arising from the operation of the legislative and judicial branches of the government, are the "important problems of the present." One might possibly be led from this to infer that the main purpose of the volume was to contribute something in the way of original discussion to the administrative problems which are to-day vexing students, writers, and statesmen. Outside, however, of the first two chapters, on the President, little of this sort of thing is attempted. The book is, in short, simply a detailed exposition of the functions of the administrative officers of the United States and of the organization of the administrative departments. The first chapter on the President discusses the development of the President's power of appointment and removal, and of his ordinance power, particularly from the aspects in which those powers merge with and partake of the nature of the legislative and judicial functions. There are short chapters on the relation of Congress to the Administration, and on the constitution of the Cabinet. The remaining two-thirds of the volume are devoted to a detailed account of the organization of the Departments, prefaced in each case by a brief historical summary. The chapters are admirable in arrangement, and their information exhaustive; no departmental functionary is too humble to have escaped the author's notice. The book fills a distinct need, and should prove of much value for speedy reference.

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THE HINDU WILLS ACT (Act XXI of 1870), with which is incorporated the Probate and Administration Act, with elaborate notes and commentaries. By Mahendra Chandra Majumdar. Calcutta: Sanyal & Co. 1904. pp. lvi, 824. 8vo.

A codification of any branch of the law invariably creates a demand for a work of comment and annotation as an aid in interpreting and applying the bare skeleton of the statute. To satisfy such a demand is the aim of the present work. The book opens with a brief preliminary statement of the causes and conditions which led to the passage in 1870 of the Hindu Wills Act, extending to the native races of India rules and regulations similar to those which govern testamentary disposition in England. Then follows a commentary which takes up each section of the Act in order, compares it with the law in England, and illustrates its practical application by a review of the English and Indian cases.

The Act is, in its essence, composed of the law which is administered in the Courts of England. In fact, many parts of the English Wills Act of 1837 are copied literally. For example, the provision as to revocation by "burning, tearing, or otherwise destroying" is the same in both acts. On the other hand, there are some striking departures from the English law; such as the provision in regard to ademption which gives to a legatee a bequest notwithstanding a subsequent provision made for him by settlement or otherwise. In addition to the commentaries upon the Wills Act of 1870, the book contains a like treatment of the Probate and Administration Act of 1881. It thus comprises a complete exposition of the Hindu law relating to wills, and should be of considerable assistance to the Indian student and practitioner.

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**THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.** By Westel W. Willoughby. New York: The Century Co. 1904. pp. 318. 8vo.

This little book might well have been called "Some Questions in American Constitutional Law." It is chiefly concerned with the history and solution of the salient constitutional problems which have vexed our political thinkers. Some of these questions are already closed, some barely opening, all of them are interesting. Professor Willoughby's book does not give one any well-proportioned knowledge of the morphology and functioning of the American States' governmental organs; but it may well serve as a useful supplement to a more descriptive text-book. In fact, it is intended as the introduction to a series of volumes which are to deal with the "American State" in greater detail. The bulk of the book is a wealth of quotations from the United States Supreme Court reporter, which at times, when joined in lengthy succession, become more or less tedious. Still, since these are sources as well as expositions, they lend the book the peculiar interest of authoritativeness, and make it remarkably definite, considering its brevity and scope. The argument proceeds in a naturally logical sequence which makes it easy to follow and to understand. The author has, all in all, succeeded in making interesting his discussion of the older controversies, and in giving a clear and timely treatment to the problems of living interest.

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**WHARTON AND STILLÉ'S MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.** Vol. I. Mental Unsoundness. Legal Questions by Frank H. Bowlby. Insanity: Forms and Medico-Legal Relations, by James Hendrie Lloyd. Vol. II. Poisons. By Robert Amory and Robert L. Emerson. Vol. III. Physical Conditions and Treatment. Medical Aspects by Truman Abbe; Legal Aspects by Frank H. Bowlby. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1905. pp. clv, 1031; xxx, 858; lxxix, 692. 8vo.

**TABLE OF CASES** alphabetically arranged as to the several states, in the American Decisions, American Reports, American State Reports, showing the cases to which notes are appended and the subject of such notes, also what cases in these series have been affirmed, reversed, or dismissed by the United States Supreme Court. By Wm. S. Torbert. Also List of Notes in the above. By A. C. Freeman. San Francisco: Bancroft & Whitney Company. 1905. pp. 754. 4to.

**INDEX OF CASES** judicially noticed (1865-1904), containing every case cited in judgments reported in the Law Reports from the commencement of this publication in 1865 to the end of 1904, as also a statement of the manner in which each case is dealt with in its place of citation. By A. N. Kant. London: William Clowes and Sons, Limited. 1905. pp. vi, 751. 8vo.

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